

Add the following new claim:

45. (New) An ink jet printhead comprising:
a substrate;
a thin film layer disposed on a surface of the substrate, the thin film layer defining a plurality of firing resistors;
a barrier/orifice structure disposed on the thin film layer, the structure defining an array of nozzles arranged in a plurality of nozzle columns and an array of firing chambers in correspondence with the array of nozzles;
the firing resistors being arranged in correspondence with the firing chambers;
the barrier/orifice structure further comprising a continuous rib portion extending between adjacent first and second ones of the plurality of nozzle columns to fluidically separate the first and second ones of the nozzle columns; and
wherein said plurality of ink feed openings are arranged in a first group on a first side of said rib portion for feeding nozzles of the first one of said plurality of columns, and a second group on a second side of said rib portion for feeding nozzles of the second one of said plurality of columns.

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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of the application as set out in the outstanding office action. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

A marked up version of the changes made to the application is attached hereto. The specification has been amended to include the serial number and filing date of the related application referenced at page 1 of the specification.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 1-37 and 39-44 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Steinfield et al. (5,984,464) in view of Courian et al. (6,286,941).

This rejections should be withdrawn, pursuant to 35 USC 103(c), providing a prior art exclusion for certain commonly assigned patents.